PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE SIERRA DE ANTONEZ, NORTH CENTRAL SONORA.

BY JOHN E. THAYER AND OUTRAM BANGS.

During some months last spring and summer spent in traveling about in Sonora to establish the present range of the vanishing *Colinus ridgwayi*, Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., made small collections of birds at several different points. Most of the places visited are pretty well known, and nothing of special interest was taken. One region, however, where Mr. Brown remained through the height of the breeding season, is less well known, and a nominal list of the birds taken there is perhaps worth publishing.

This place is a range of low mountains known as the Sierra de Antonez, in north central Sonora, about latitude 30°, longitude 110°+ and 95 miles south of the Arizona boundary, but extending almost to the boundary in a series of lower foot-hills. These mountains make a slight watershed, the Rio de Sonora and San Miguel rising there and flowing south, then west, and branches of the Gila River rising in their northern end and flowing north.

Mr. Brown collected here from the last few days of April to the first of June, principally at Opodepe, 2,000 feet altitude, and La Chumata mine, 4,500 feet altitude; the two places about 20 miles apart east and west. La Chumata mine is situated on the south side of La Chumata cañon, 275 feet above its bottom. Through the cañon flows a brook which in the rainy season becomes quite a river, and along its banks the vegetation is luxuriant, cottonwood, birch, willow and oak being the characteristic trees. The peaks above are rather more barren, three species of caks being the characteristic trees, with long grass growing under them. The commoner birds of the cañon were

Cooper's tanager, McLeod's sparrow, painted redstart, Californian woodpecker, Nelson's oriole, Scott's oriole, and the wood pewee. On the higher peaks above, the hepatic tanager, Arizona jay, Arizona woodpecker, blue gray gnateatcher, Scott's sparrow, and Mearns's quail were the characteristic species.

Mr. Brown took many nests with sets of eggs, most interesting of which is perhaps that of McLeod's sparrow (Aimophila mcleodii Brewster), of which he secured a number of sets. Mr. Brown thinks his collection a very good representative one of the breeding birds of the region, as he saw but one species, Urubitinga anthracina (Licht.), that he fully identified, but failed to get.

The following is a nominal list of the species taken:

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.).

Opodepe.

Buteo borealis calurus Cassin.

La Chumata.

Buteo swainsoni Bp.

Opodepe.

Accipiter cooperi mexicanus Swains.

La Chumata.

Cyrtonyx montezumæ mearnsi Nelson.

La Chumata.

Lophortyx douglasi bensoni (Ridg.).

Opodepe.

Lophortyx gambeli fulvipectus Nelson.

Opodepe.

Zenaidura carolinensis carolinensis (Linn.).

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Melopelia leucoptera (Linn.).

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Scardafella inca inca (Less.).

Opodepe.

Columbigallina passerina pallescens Baird.

Opodepe.

Phæoptila latirostris (Swains.).

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Colaptes chrysoides (Malh.).

Opodepe.

Melanerpes formicivorus melanopogon (Temm.).

La Chumata. The twenty-three skins taken represent a race not quite typical of any of the named forms. The bill is smaller than in Californian specimens, and the breast rather more streaked. The band on the crown is nearly as narrow as in augustifrons.

Melanerpes uropygialis (Baird).

Opodepe.

Dendrocopus arizonæ (Hargitt).

La Chumata.

Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus Sclater.

Opodepe.

Empidonax difficilis Baird.

La Chumata.

Horizopus richardsoni (Swains.).

La Chumata.

Myiarchus mexicanus magister Ridg.

La Chumata.

Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens (Lawr.).

La Chumata ; Opodepe.

Myiarchus lawrencei olivascens Ridg.

La Chumata.

Tyrannus verticalis Say.

Opodepe.

Tyrannus vociferans Swains.

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus (Vig.).

Opodepe.

Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri (Ridg.).

Opodepe. Nelson has separated the bird of southern Sonora, type locality Alamos, as *T. c. maculatus* (Auk, vol. XVII, 1900, p. 269). We can not detect any differences in the birds taken by Brown from Guaymas north to Opodepe, and Arizona specimens, and believe they should all go with the northern form.

Sialia sialis azurea (Baird).

La Chumata.

Polioptila cærulea obscura Ridg.

La Chumata.

Polioptila plumbea (Baird).

Opodepe.

 $\label{eq:continuity} \textbf{Heleodytes brunneicapillus brunneicapillus (Lafr.)}.$ Opodepe.

20 Thayer and Bangs—Breeding Birds of North Central Sonora.

Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus Oberh.

La Chumata.

Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus Oberh.

La Chumata

Sitta carolinensis nelsoni Mearns.

La Chumata.

Baeolophus wollweberi annexus (Cass.).

La Chumata.

Auriparus flaviceps flaviceps (Sund.).

Opodepe.

Psaltriparus plumbeus cecaumenorum subsp. nov.

La Chumata, eight adults of both sexes.

Type from La Chumata mine, north central Sonora, 4,500 feet altitude, adult ♂ No. 14,724, collection of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected May 22, 1905, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

Characters.—Slightly smaller than true P. plumbeus Baird of Arizona; upperparts blue-gray (olive-gray in true P. plumbeus); whole head and underparts much paler.

Remarks.—This is a well marked southern form of P. plumbeus. Mr. Oberholser kindly compared our eight skins with the large series at Washington, and agrees with us as to its distinctness.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
14,724	♂ ad.	La Chumata	50.5	52	16,2	7
14,725	♂ad.	46	47.5	51	16	7
14,726	♂ ad.	44	48	51.5	16	6.8
14,727	of ad.	66	48.5	49	16.4	6.8
	o ad.	"	49	51	16.2	6.4
14,728	♀ ad.	"	48.5	52	16	7
14,729	Q ad.	"	49	52.5	16	7
	Q ad.	"	48	50	16	6.6

Aphelocoma sieberii arizonæ (Ridg.).

La Chumata.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides (Swains.).

Opodepe.

Vireo huttoni stephensi Brewster.

La Chumata.

Vireo bellii arizonæ Ridg.

Opodepe.

Phainopepla nitens (Swains.).

Opodepe.

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis (Aud.).

Opodepe.

Hirundo erythrogastra Bodd.

Opodepe.

Compsothlypis pitiayumi pulchra (Brewst.).

La Chumata.

Setophaga picta picta (Swains.).

La Chumata.

Tangavius* aeneus aeneus (Wagler).

Opodepe.

Molothrus ater obscurus (Gmel.).

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Scolecophagus cyanocephalus (Wagler).

Opodepe. As these specimens were taken at the very end of April and none were seen in May, they most likely were migrants.

Icterus wagleri Scl.

Opodepe.

Icterus cucullatus nelsoni Ridg.

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Icterus parisorum Bp.

La Chumata.

Piranga rubra cooperi Ridg.

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Piranga hepatica Swains.

La Chumata.

Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus Oberh.

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Carpodacus mexicanus ruberrimus Ridg.

Opodepe; La Chumata. This series represents a form clearly intermediate between C. m. frontalis (Say) and the so-called C. m. sonoriensis Ridg. of southern Sonora. Brewster, in "Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California," † has shown that the latter is not sufficiently different from C. m. ruberrimus of Cape St. Lucas to stand as a subspecies. It is always unpleasant to have to decide by what name to call an intergrade, and in this very instance other ornithologists might not agree with us. We have decided to call the specimens ruberrimus because they agree in measurements with a series of that form taken by Brown at Guaymas. In color the adult males are perhaps rather nearer frontalis, but there is much individual variation in both series.

^{*} For use of Tangavius in place of Callothrus, Cf. Nelson, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XVIII, p. 125, Apr. 18, 1905.

[†] Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Vol. XLI, pp. 133-135, Sept., 1902.

Aimophila quinquestriata (Scl.).

Opodepe.

Aimophila carpalis (Coues).

Opodepe.

Aimophila mcleodii Brewster.

La Chumata.

Aimophila ruficeps scottii (Sennett).

La Chumata.

Amphispiza bilineata deserticola Ridg.

Opodepe.

Spizella pallida (Swains.).

Opodepe. Not taken after the end of April.

Spizella breweri Cassin.

Opodepe. One Q only, taken April 28.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys (Forster).

Opodepe.

Pipilo fuscus intermedius Nelson.

Opodepe. The examples taken appear to be perfectly typical, agreeing with specimens from Alamos and Guaymas, and are not as might be expected intergrades between *intermedius* and *mesoleucus*.

Zamelodia melanocephala (Swains.).

Opodepe; La Chumata.

Pyrrhuloxia sinuata sinuata Bp.

Opodepe.

Cardinalis cardinalis affinis Nelson.

Opodepe; La Chumata. Birds from this region have the bill exactly similar to those from Guaymas and Alamos, at once distinguishing them from C. c. superbus or C. c. igneus. The only approach they show to C. c. superbus is that they are a trifle larger than examples from farther south—Alamos and Guaymas.